Poor design of National Highways

1060. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether NHAI is not paying any attention to road safety in the design of National Highways;

(b) whether it is a fact that NHAI has poorly designed Highways in this regard;

(c) whether it is also a fact that foreign consultants are used for design; and

(d) if so, the cause for neglect of road safety by the engineers and designers of NHAI?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir. NHAI is paying due attention to road safety in the design of National Highways.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Construction of port at Dhamara (Orissa)

1061. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to construct a port at Dhamara in Bhadrak district in Orissa.

(b) if so, the funds earmarked for the construction of the port; and

(c) the year by which the port is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes Sir. The Government of Orissa have proposal to construct a Port at Dhamara in Bhadrak district. A Memorandum of Understanding has been entered into by Government Orissa with M/s. International Sea Ports Pvt. Limited.

(b) Approximately Rs. 1200 crores have been proposed to be invested by International Sea Ports Pvt. Limited for the first phase of the development of the Port.

(c) The first phase of the Port is expected to be completed by 2002.

Development of Indian Water Transport

1062. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken by the Inland Waterway Authority of India (IWAI) to assess future potential of traffic for development of Indian water transport;

(b) the recommendations of the National Transport Policy Committee regarding suitability of the Godavari. Krishna and Mahanadi rivers as national waterways for development of navigation to transport cargo economically;

(c) whether extensive surveys and investigations have been carried out on the above waterways; and

(d) if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has carried out Techno-Economic Feasibility studies on almost all potential waterways recommended to be declared and developed as National Waterways by the National Transport Policy Committee which include assessment of future potential of traffic. Assessment of future potential of traffic on declared National Waterways is also available through studies already conducted.

(b) These rivers have been recommended by the National Transport Policy Committee as being suitable for development as National Waterways.

(c) Techno-Economic Feasibility studies have been conducted on these rivers.

(d) Cherla-Rajahmundry stretch of river Godavari was found to have potential for development as navigable route.

Development of Krishna river was not found economically viable. Backwaters of Mahanadi river were found to be feasible for development of navigable route for transportation of talchar coal through Brahmani/Mahanadi river system.

Central Road fund for development of National Highways

1063. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have drawn up any plan for the development of National Highways and other roads;

(b) whether it is proposed to create a Central Road Fund for the purpose;

(c) if so, the funds required initially for the creation of the proposed Central Road Funds;

(d) whether Government have agreed to release the required funds for the purpose; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Central Road Fund already exists.

(c) to (e) Do not arise.

बिहार में नदी में जलयानों का चलाया जाना

1064. **श्री जनार्दन यादव:** क्या जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार की बिहार से बरारीघाट, मनिहारी तथा सुल्तानगंज घाट पर जलयानों को चलाने की कोई योजना है;

(ख) क्या सरकार को इस बात की जानकारी है कि प्रत्येक वर्ष हजारों लोग नाव तथा निजी जलयानों के डूबने से मर जाते हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार का सुरक्षित आवागमन सुविधा को देखते हुए जलयानों को चलाने की योजना को कार्यान्वित करने का कोई प्रस्ताव है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो कब तक और यदि नहीं, तो क्यों?

जल-भूतल परिवहन मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा॰ देवेन्द्र प्रधान): (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और राज्यसभा के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

Removal of congestion of Roads

1065. DR. D. VEKATESHWAR RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a truch takes more than 48 hours to reach Ahmedabad from Delhi in view of traffic congestion; and

(b) if so, the measures taken to further widen the roads?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A length of 125 Km of National Highway No. 8 running from Delhi to Ahmedabad has already been widened to four-lane carriageway. In addition, it has been decided to widen the remaining stretches of this N.H. to four-lane as a part of the golden quadrangle to be executed by the National Highways Authority of India.

Assistance from ADB for Development of Highways in Orissa

1066. SHRI BHAGABAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Asian Development Bank loan has been obtained by Government for the development of National Highways;

(b) if so, the total amont of ADB loan obtained by Government for this purpose so far; and

(c) the details of the National Highways which are being developed with the ADB loan in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.